

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9161

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: CRISIS IN PASOK

REF: ATHENS 4355

1. SUMMARY. CONFRONTED WITH DISSIDENT PROTESTS FROM A NUMBER OF HIS SEVENTY-FIVE MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU DISSOLVED THE COMMITTEE AND ANNOUNCED THAT THE MOVEMENT WOULD START ALL OVER IN RECONSTITUTING ITS NATIONAL ORGANS OF LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO THE DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED IN REFTTEL, ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF PASOK'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE FILED PROTESTS IN DEFENSE OF THEIR ELEVEN EXPELLED COLLEAGUES. IN ADDITION, REPORTEDLY 40-45 MEMBERS OF THE 75 - MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESIGNED, WHETHER IN PROTEST AGAINST PAPANDREOU OR TO FACILITATE REORGANIZATION OF PASOK'S LEADERSHIP IS NOT CLEAR. IN A STATEMENT ISSUED ON JUNE 14, PAPANDREOU ADMITTED THAT A CRISIS EXISTED IN PASOK WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO FACTIONALISM AMONG THE LEADERSHIP. THIS, HE SAID, THREATENED NOT ONLY UNITY AT THE TOP BUT ALSO THE IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION AND THE POLITICAL COURSE

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OF THE MOVEMENT. PAPANDREOU CALLED FOR RECOURSE TO THE

MOVEMENT'S BASE TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN PASOK AND
RECONSTITUTUE ITS LEADERSHIP.

3. IN HIS STATEMENT, PAPANDREOU SAID THE AUTHORITY OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND OF THE PASOK PRE-CONVENTION, WHICH HAD
CHOSEN THE MEMBERS (SEE A-54), HAD BEEN GRAVELY ERODED BY
SUBVERSIVE FACTIONS AND BY DISGRUNTLED INDIVIDUALS WHO PUT
THEIR PERSONAL AMBITIONS ABOVE PARY INTERESTS. HE ADMITTED
THAT DISCIPLINE HAD GONE TO PIECES IN PASOK AND THAT THE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE HAD BEEN FORCED BY CIRCUMSTANCES TO ACT
OUTSIDE A STRICTLY DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK TO DEAL WITH
THE SITUATION. HIS STATEMENT EMPHASIZED THAT IN HIS VIEW THE
DIVISION WAS RELATED TO A MORE GENERAL EFFORT TO CREATE A
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH PAPANDREOU HAS CONSISTENTLY
OPPOSED PASOK FROM BECOMING.

4. THE SOLUTION TO THE INTERNAL LEADERSHIP CRISIS, ACCORDING
TO PAPANDREOU, IS TO GO BACK TO THE GRASS-ROOTS. IN VIEW OF
THE URGENCY OF THE MATTER, HE SAID THERE WAS NO TIME
TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE. HE DECLARED THAT LOCAL ORGANS
OF THE PARTY WILL NOMINATE MEMBERS TO A NEW CENTRAL
COMMITTEE BY JUNE 30 WHICH WILL CONVENE ON JULY 12 AND 13
AND ADOPT NEW PARTY REGULATIONS. HE ALSO CALLED FOR THE
FOUNDING OF A NEW NATIONAL COUNCIL, COMPLOSED OF THE
MEMBERS OF GHE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, FOUNDING MEMBERS OF
PASOK (VIZ. PAPANDREOU'S FRIENDS), PASOK'S PARLIAMENTARY
GROUP, AND OTHERS ELECTED BY LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS (MORE OF
HIS FRIENDS). THE COUNCIL WILL MEET TWICE A YEAR TO
REVIEW PASOK'S PROGRESS AND TO PROPOSE A PROGRAM OF FUTURE
ACTION.

5. COMMENT: PAPANDREOU'S STATEMENT REPEATEDLY GAVE
ASSURANCE THAT THE CRISIS WAS AT THE TOP OF THE MOVEMENT
AND NOT AT ITS BASE. PAPANDREOU REITERATED PASOK'S
OBJECTIVES AS BEIN PURIFICATION OF THE STATE MACHINERY.
DISENGAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY FROM NATO AND THE U.S.,
SAVING CYPRUS, NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL LIBERATION
FOR THE WORKERS. THE STATMENT WAS, IN ADDITION, A FRANK
CONFESSION THAT PAPANDREOU'S OVERALL STRATEGY TO CONTROL
PASOK HAS AFTER SIX MONTHS OF APPLICATION FALLEN FLAT ON
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ITS FACE.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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